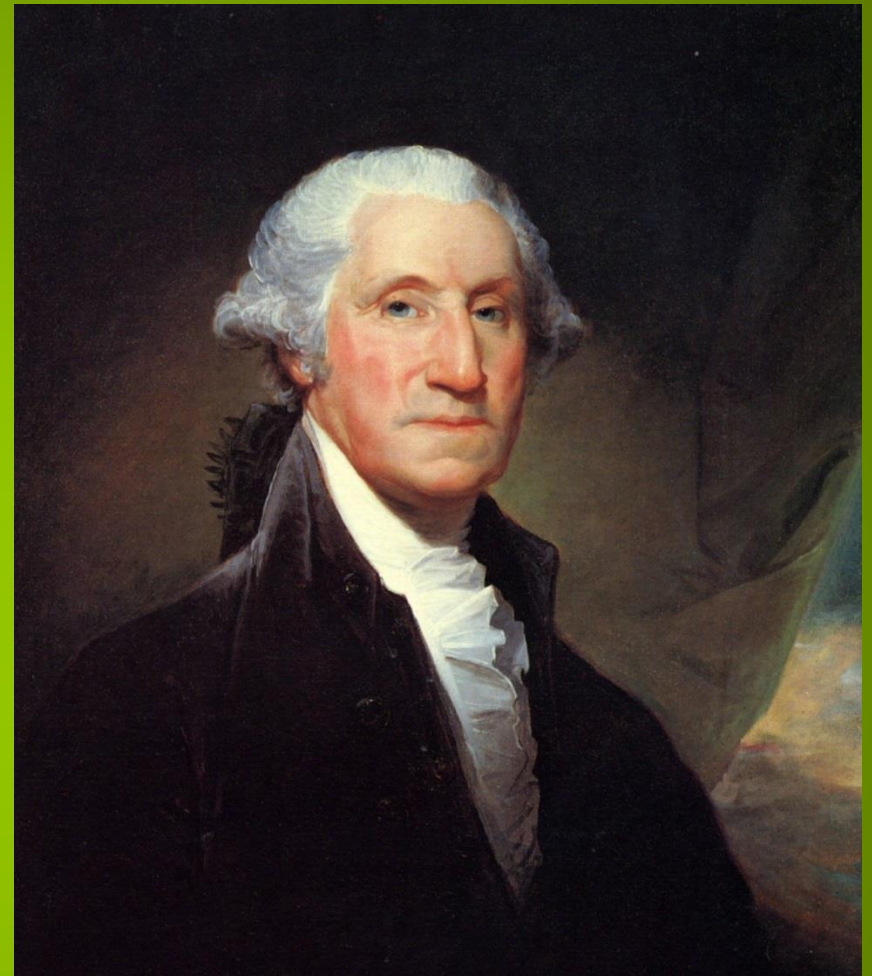




# ISOLATIONISM

- Isolationism is the idea that the United States should stay out of world affairs. Although many advocates of isolationism believed that it would make the nation safer and more prosperous, ignoring foreign affairs rarely helps a nation become stronger. Moreover, the United States has almost never followed a policy of isolationism in world affairs – although we have attempted to ignore certain regions of the world – for example Europe, or Africa.



George Washington's Farewell Address encouraged Americans to adopt an isolationist policy towards Europe.



# IMPERIALISM

- *Imperialism is the economic and political domination of a larger, more powerful nation over a smaller, less powerful nation.*
- *Imperialist policies allow nations to create empires – controlling smaller nations and demanding tributes – or, simply taking economic advantages over those nations.*
- *The United States took over much of Mexico's land in the Southwest during the imperialist Mexican-American War.*
- *After the Spanish-American War of 1898, the United States expanded its empire by claiming the Philippines as a colony.*



Theodore Roosevelt's most obvious act of imperialism was the creation of Panama and the construction of the Panama Canal.

## CAUSES OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM:

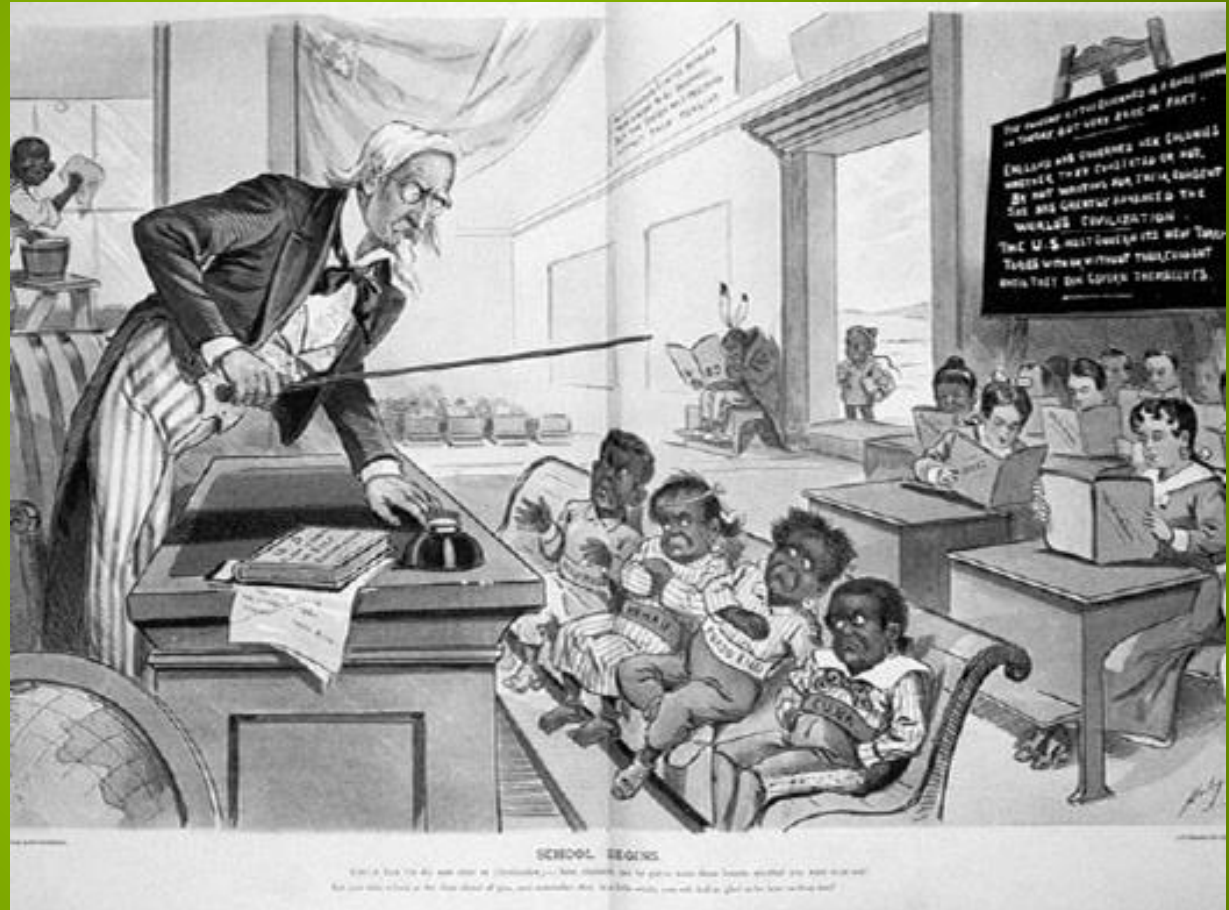
# 1. FEELINGS OF RACIAL SUPERIORITY: THE ANGLO – SAXON MYTH.

## 2. THE DESIRE TO EXPAND MILITARY BASES AND PROJECT AMERICAN MILITARY STRENGTH AROUND THE GLOBE.

### 3. THE DESIRE TO EXPAND TRADE TO WORLD MARKETS – CAPITALIST GAINS.

## 4. THE DESIRE TO SPREAD CHRISTIANITY.

## What are some of the causes of American Imperialism?

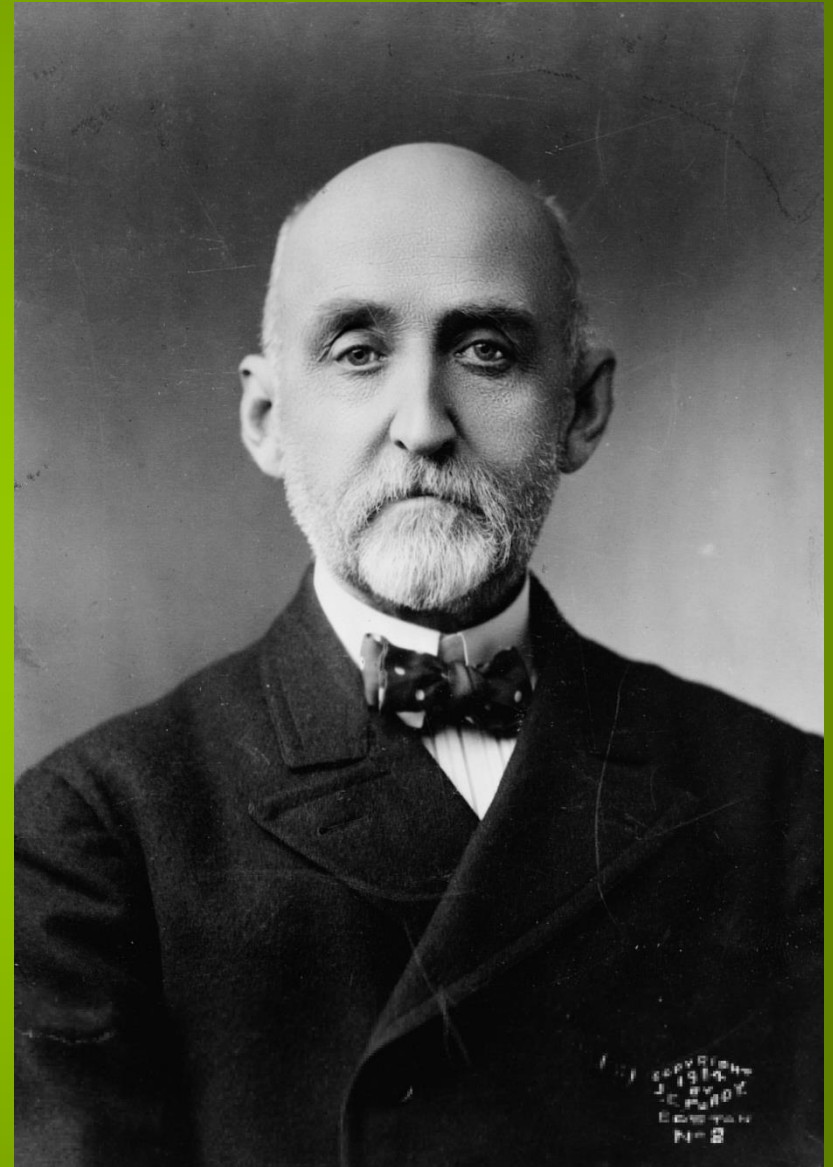




# ALFRED THAYER MAHAN :

## THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER UPON HISTORY

- Alfred Thayer Mahan pointed out that the most prosperous people in world history – the Greeks, the Romans, the Dutch, and the British, had powerful navies that helped to protect their merchant vessels and facilitate trade.
- Mahan encouraged the United States to expand its naval power, and to project our power globally. In this manner, we could increase trade and prosperity. A strong navy would protect American business interests.



# HAWAII – THE OVERTHROW OF QUEEN LILIUOKALANI

- *Christian missionaries, planters, American business leaders, and a small contingent of American soldiers were all present on the Hawaiian islands during the late 1800s.*
- *Missionaries had been proselytizing people in Hawaii for decades.*
- *Planters had moved into Hawaii to control trade in a variety of unique products – one of the most famous today is the Dole company – which specialized in tropical fruits – like pineapples.*
- *The US had acquired the rights to the naval base at Pearl Harbor in 1887 – under a treaty with former King Kalakaua.*
- *Together, these groups organized to overthrow Queen Liliuokalani in 1893.*



## PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND : ANTI-IMPERIALIST PRESIDENT

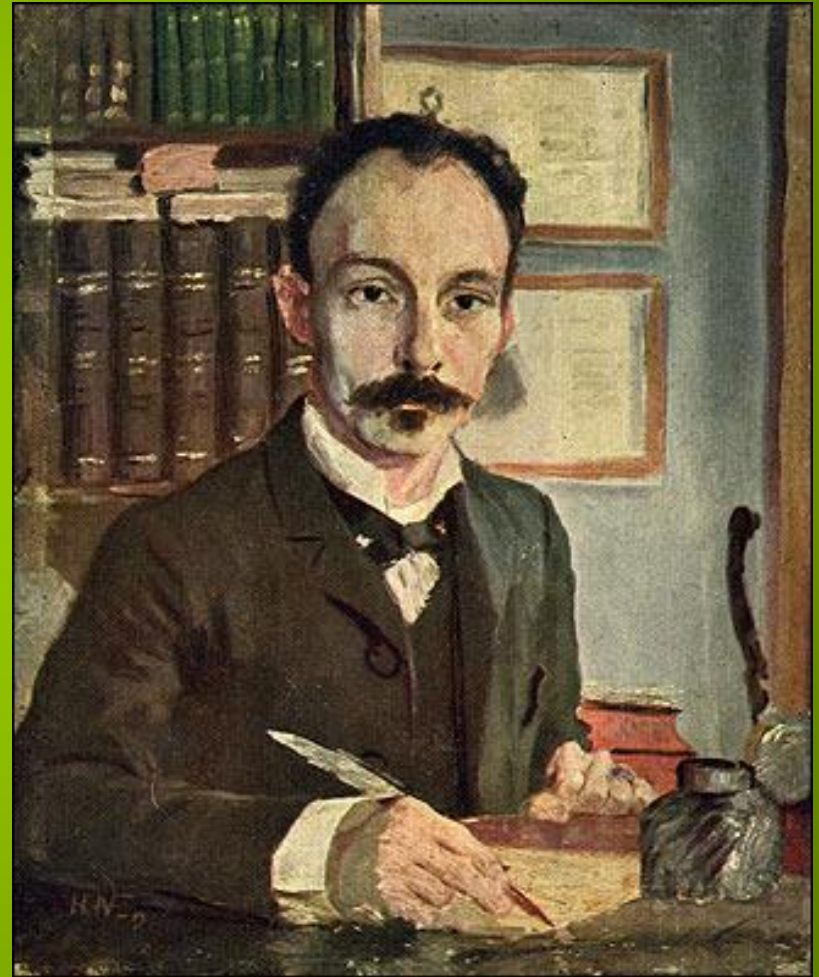
- *When Hawaii was taken over by American business interests in 1893, the provisional government immediately applied to be annexed by the United States.*
- *At the time, President Grover Cleveland insisted that the provisional government was not legitimate, and that the United States would not recognize them as the true leaders of Hawaii.*
- *In 1898, however, a new President saw things differently. President William McKinley, eager to see the United States empire grow, annexed Hawaii. Hawaii became a state in 1959.*





# JOSE MARTI – CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY

- In the 1890s, Jose Marti was probably the most outspoken activist for Cuban independence. At the time, Cuba was ruled over by Spain. As the Spanish empire began to crumble, it used military power in order to hold on to its most prized possessions. One of these possessions was Cuba.
- Jose Marti traveled throughout the United States, raising money for revolutionary armies which would free Cuba from Spanish rule: Cuba Libre!
- Marti would be killed by the Spanish before Cuba won its independence.





# AMERICA'S BUSINESS INTERESTS IN CUBA

- Although the Spanish controlled the politics of the Cuban people, American companies and American businessmen made fortunes using the natural resources of the island.
- Americans controlled a wide array of resources, including:
  - Sugar Cane
  - Oil
  - Mining Operations
  - Casinos
  - Beachfront Tourist Resorts
  - Railroads



# WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

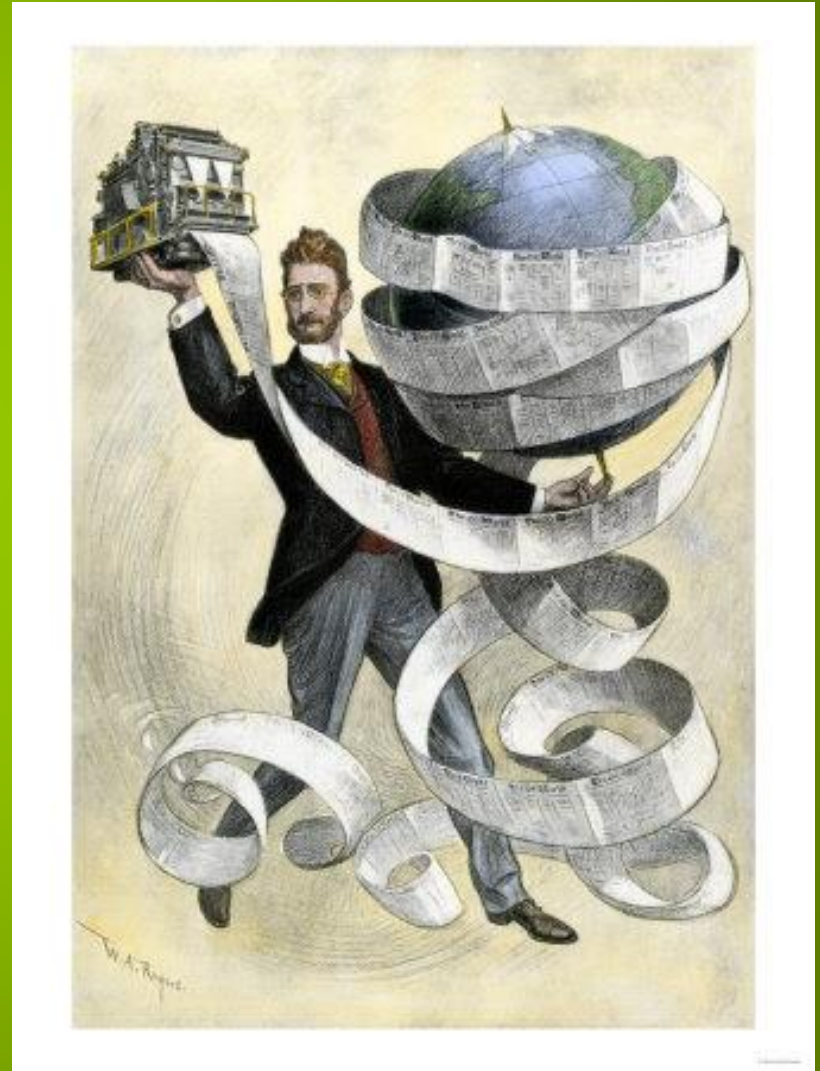
- One of the United States first media magnates, Hearst owned the New York Morning Journal and the New York World.
- Seeing an increasingly literate public with a desire to be both informed and entertained, Hearst stopped at nothing to sell newspapers.
- High interest stories which often sensationalized events to the point of absurdity sold copies, and Hearst was not above misleading the public and sacrificing truth to sell newspapers.





# JOSEPH PULITZER

- Don't let the prestigious name of journalism's most coveted award fool you, Joseph Pulitzer was every bit as devoted to selling copies of his newspaper as Hearst had been. And, just like Hearst, he was willing to substitute sensationalism for reality if that helped to sell newspapers.
- Pulitzer and Hearst both sent reporters to Cuba during the late 1890s, hoping to find a storyline which would capture the public's imagination.
- Frequently, these stories were written on low reading levels and emphasized violence, brutality, and bloodshed.



# YELLOW JOURNALISM

- Sensationalism in reporting, where journalist exaggerated, embellished, or simply made up stories – sacrificing the truth in order to gain more readers – became known as yellow journalism. It was called “Yellow Journalism” after a popular comic strip, called “The Yellow Kid.” (There he is to the right, drinking champagne out of a fishbowl.) Since many readers were barely literate, high interest stories with plenty of pictures were the ticket to success.





# YELLOW JOURNALISM AS A CAUSE OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Stories which described Spanish atrocities in Cuba were often exaggerated – although there were plenty of transgressions which actually took place. After reporting on “re-concentration camps” and the starving victims of brutal Spanish rule, many Americans were angry with Spain to begin with.

When American business interests were threatened and by the Spanish and diplomatic insults were exchanged between the US and the Spanish, the newspapers began to agitate towards war. After all, what better event to sell newspapers? This was the logic of the newspapers, anyhow...

**\$50,000 REWARD.—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?—\$50,000 REWARD.**

EDITION FOR GREATER NEW YORK  
**NEW YORK JOURNAL**  
AND ADVERTISER.

NO. 1472. Thursday, February 17, 1901. PRICE ONE CENT

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**DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY.**

**\$50,000!**  
**\$50,000 REWARD!**  
For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!

The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for information furnished to it which will result in the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the destruction of the Maine. The \$50,000 cash reward will be paid to the person or persons who furnish the information.

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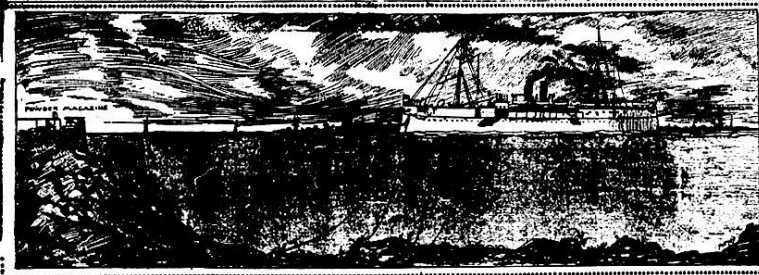
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**Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.**

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death. Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.



**NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.**

Source: Eugene Brown, the Journal's special correspondent at Havana, cables that in the secret opinion of many Spanish naval officers the Maine was destroyed and 258 of her men killed by means of a submarine mine, or land torpedo. This is the opinion of several American naval authorities. The Spanish, it is believed, arranged to have the 35-ton armored war ship of the United States blown up with a powder magazine, and it is thought the explosion was caused by a mine, or a torpedo, or a mine. The Journal will give \$50,000 for information furnished to it which will result in the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the destruction of the Maine. The \$50,000 cash reward will be paid to the person or persons who furnish the information.

**Hidden Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-of-War—Officers and Men Tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown Into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Scout the Idea of Accident—Spanish Officials Protest Too Much—Our Cabinet Orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck. Was the Vessel Anchored Over a Mine?**

BY CAPTAIN E. L. ZALINSKI, U. S. A.

(Captain Zalinski is the inventor of the famous dynamite gun, which would be the principal factor in our coast defense in case of war.)

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt says he is convinced that the destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor was not an accident. The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for exclusive evidence that will convict the person, persons or Government criminally responsible for the destruction of the American battle ship and the death of 258 of its crew.

The suspicion that the Maine was deliberately blown up grows stronger every hour. Not a single fact to the contrary has been produced.

Captain Sigbee, of the Maine, and Consul-General Lee both urge that public opinion be suspended until they have completed their investigation. They are taking the course of tactful men who are convinced that there has been treachery.

Washington reports very late that Captain Sigbee had feared some event as a hidden mine. The English cipher code was used all day yesterday by naval officers in cabling instead of the usual American code.

# FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 1898 – THE USS MAINE EXPLODES IN HAVANA HARBOR

- No one really knows why the USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor in the winter of 1898. However, historians and scientists who studied the wreckage seem to agree that the ship exploded from the inside out – meaning that the explosion was likely the result of an accident below decks. Newspaper accounts, though, immediately blamed the Spanish! Soon calls for revenge and warfare to liberate Cuba began.





# “REMEMBER THE MAINE!”



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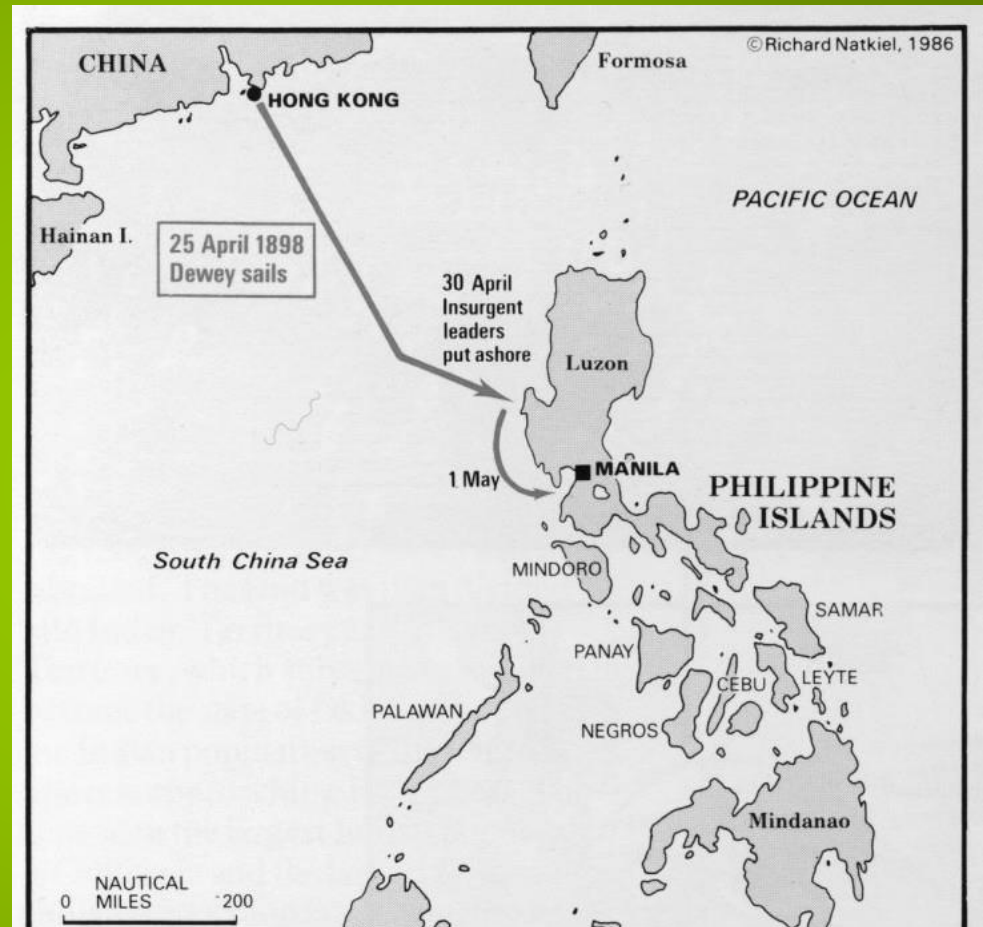
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# THE BATTLE OF MANILA BAY, THE PHILIPPINES

It may seem a little peculiar that the first major battle of the Spanish-American War – a war which started over the independence of Cuba – would take place a half a world away in the Philippines. But that's exactly what happened.

Commodore George Dewey – having received orders from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt – immediately attacked the Spanish fleet, anchored at Manila Bay. He sank the entire fleet, and then organized ground forces to “liberate” these islands from Spanish rule too.



The Philippines were the prize jewel of the Spanish Empire, and the United States wanted the islands for our own empire.



# THEODORE ROOSEVELT ESTABLISHES THE ROUGHRIDERS, 1898



Theodore Roosevelt, center left, and the Roughriders.

*Theodore Roosevelt, who was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy at this point (he would not become President until 1901, when McKinley was assassinated), quit his job and organized a volunteer cavalry unit to fight in Cuba. The group, known as the Roughriders, fought in Cuba at the Battle of San Juan Hill. (The battle actually took place at Kettle Hill. African-American “Buffalo Soldiers” played a large role in the battle; however, TR and his men took most of the credit.*

# THE TREATY OF PARIS OF 1898 – ENDING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The United States forced the Spanish to surrender after just a few weeks of war in 1898. When the war came to an end, the United States began to establish an empire by taking over former Spanish possessions – sort of...

**GUAM** – became a United States possession.

**PUERTO RICO** – was also taken over. Today, Puerto Rico is still a United States territory.

**CUBA** – Cuba Libre! Cuba was freed of Spanish rule and became an American protectorate. The US promised, however, to allow Cuba self-government. (We took over Guantanamo Bay, though, as a naval base.

**THE PHILIPPINES** – the US paid Spain \$20 Million to take over the Philippines, despite the objections of Filipino freedom fighters like Emilio Aguinaldo. Look at the newspaper headline to the right. The war to control the Philippines, often called the Filipino Insurrection, was much bloodier and much more brutal than the Spanish-American War ever was.





# ANTI-IMPERIALISTS

Americans who believed that it was against our nation's values to take over other nations and control them for their resources were called Anti-Imperialists. Their argument was that it was contrary to the democratic principles of the nation and our commitment to the idea that "all men are created equal" to rule arbitrarily over a foreign nation. Anti-Imperialists included men like Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie, William Jennings Bryan, and even the former President Grover Cleveland. Jane Addams opposed the acquisition of colonies, too.



Anti Imperialists pointed out that Americans still needed to work on our democracy at home: the lynching of African-Americans in the South were common and uncivilized enough.

# THE FILIPINO INSURRECTION

*When the United States military arrived in the Philippines in 1898, they promised the Filipinos their independence. Grateful for assistance in defeating their Spanish rulers, Filipino rebels cooperated with Americans in order to gain their freedom. Among those helping to coordinate the war effort was Emilio Aguinaldo – a doctor and nationalist leader of the Philippines.*

*Later in 1898, however, President William McKinley made the decision to colonize the Philippines. He claimed that God had spoken to him, and that it was now the American people's responsibility to Christianize the islands. (Perhaps God neglected to tell him that the Philippines had been Catholics for many centuries...)*

*When Filipinos learned that they had been betrayed a brutal and bloody insurrection began against the Americans – their new colonial rulers. The fighting would carry on for years to come.*

*More than 200,000 Filipinos and thousands of American soldiers would perish. The Philippines was an American colony until the end of World War II.*





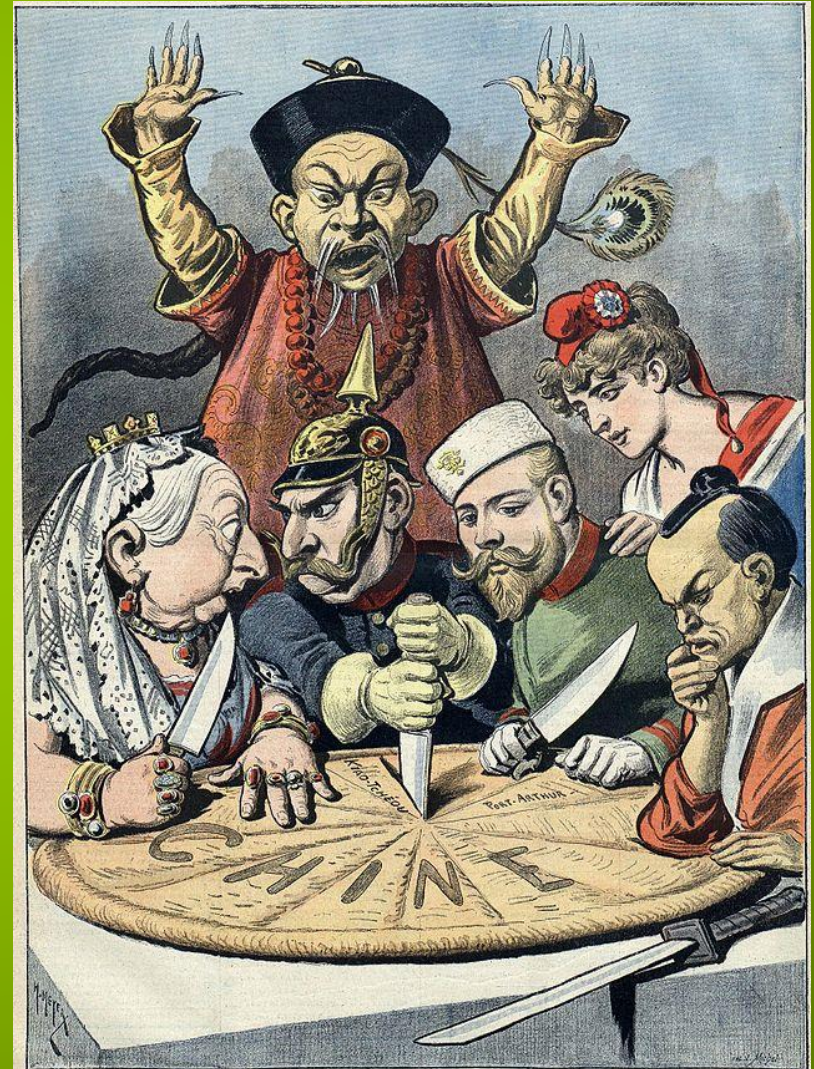
# SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

Spheres of Influence are regions of a nation which are controlled – either economically or politically – by outside nations with imperialistic attitudes. The clearest example of this at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was China, where Russia, Japan, England, France, Germany, and the United States all vied for control over the vast resources and markets which China provided. Americans wanted a larger piece of the pie; Chinese citizens – for the most part – simply wanted all of these outsiders to leave them be!



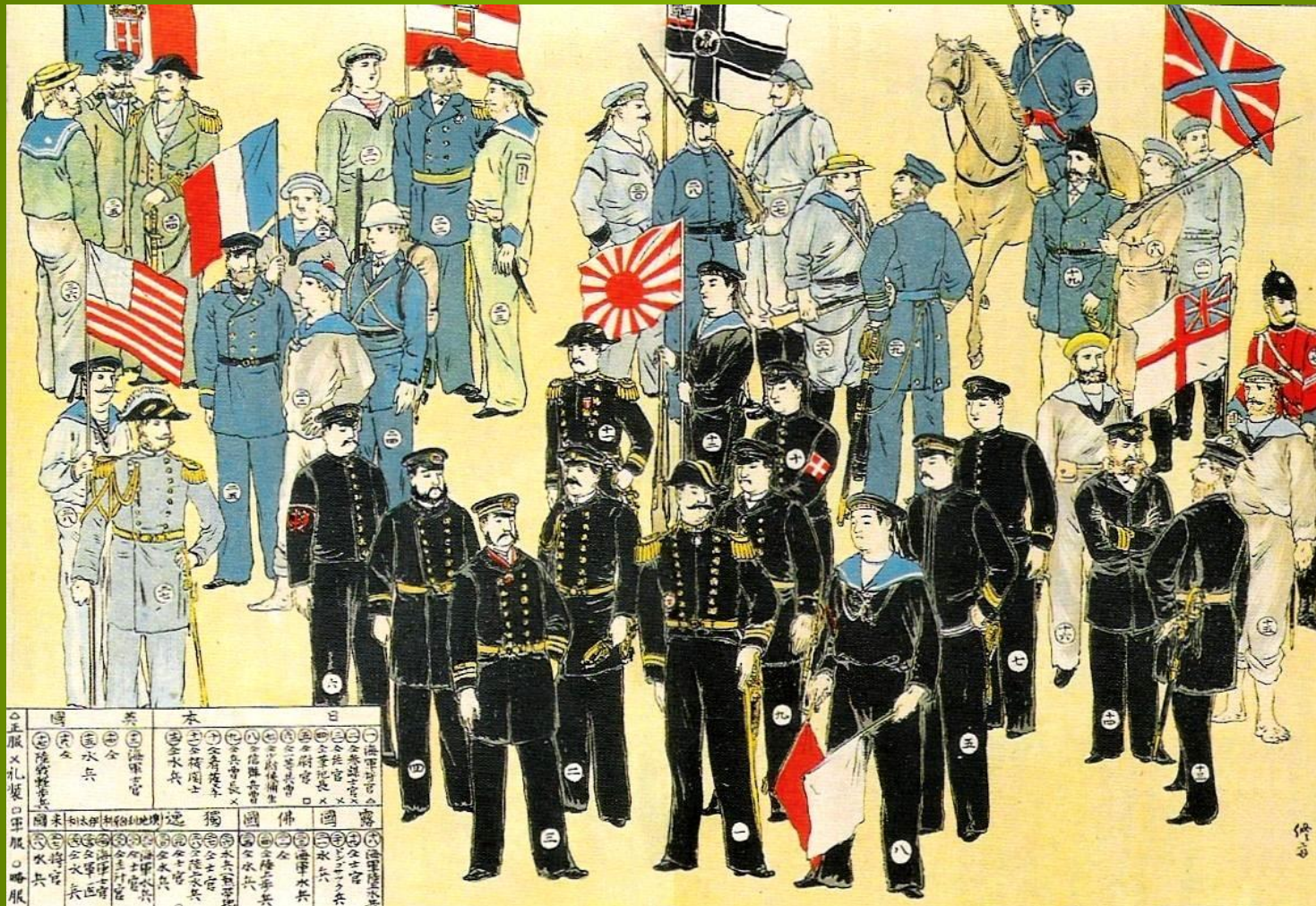
# THE OPEN DOOR POLICY OF JOHN HAY

In 1900, American Secretary of State John Hay proposed the “Open Door Policy” for trade with China. Since Americans were largely shut out of the China trade, he proposed that all foreign powers should be allowed equal access to Chinese resources and Chinese markets. Not surprisingly, European nations objected to the proposal – they, of course, already had access to the Chinese. The Chinese hated the policy, too. To them, it was just one more nation attempting to occupy their territory and exploit them economically. Over the years, however, as the United States gained greater and greater economic and military power compared to the other nations involved, our share of the “China Trade” did increase.





# THE BOXER REBELLION



In 1900, Chinese nationalists attempted to fight back by organizing in an effort to remove all “Foreign Devils,” like the Japanese, English, French, Russians, and Americans. The uprising was not successful, though, in removing these nations.



# “SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK!”



Theodore Roosevelt's favorite expression was this African proverb. He believed that if smaller nations were blocking the interests of Americans, the use of force to acquire resources or promote the nations interest was justified.



# BUILDING THE PANAMA CANAL, 1903 - 1914



In 1903, Roosevelt asked Colombia for permission to build a canal across their northernmost state. When Colombia refused, Theodore Roosevelt organized a coup, threatened Colombia with military invasion, and soon thereafter, the independent nation of Panama was recognized. Construction on the canal began after the signing of a treaty with the Panamanians later that year. It was completed in 1914, just before World War I began.

# THE ROOSEVELT COROLLARY

The Roosevelt Corollary was an addition to the long established Monroe Doctrine. You will recall that the Monroe Doctrine was a foreign policy pronouncement in 1823 which forbid European nations from colonizing regions of the Western Hemisphere. In return, the United States pledged to stay out of European affairs. In the early 1900s, TR made a slight amendment to the Monroe Doctrine. Now, he claimed, the United States reserved to right to intervene in any disputes between European powers and their American colonies. In other words, in the Western Hemisphere (North America, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean) what we say, goes! The policy was not popular with European governments or American nations.





# WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT'S DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

*President William Howard Taft followed Roosevelt in office, and was a firm believer that nation's foreign policy ties were improved whenever those nations engaged in mutually beneficial trade. Therefore, he attempted to open up ports and build transportation systems throughout Central America and the Caribbean in order to facilitate greater trade. Nations that trade together rarely wage war, and Taft felt that the United States had an obligation to teach Latin American nations how to make the most of their natural resources. If American businessmen and corporations made a ton of money in the process, too, then so much the better. This was what Taft referred to as "Dollar Diplomacy."*

